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To: 'Microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 12/10/01 11:32am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Hello-

Please, please, please do not allow MS to 'donate' MS software to schools as part of their penalty. Shouldn't the penalty reward the plaintiffs and punish MS? How does subjecting our education system to forced enslavement to MS do either of these things? MS is not even giving the software to the schools... it is only lending it to them for 5 years before they ask for payment for any continued use? What a joke... when I donate something to my local school do I say... you can use this nice musical instrument for 5 years but then I am going to come back and ask you to pay me for any use after that? And that is a donation, not a lawsuit settlement penalty. Or even better yet, do you ask your children what punishment they deserve for stealing money from their siblings? I am sure they would come up with a novel idea of punishment.

Microsoft should have to pay a VERY large CASH penalty to the Justice Department that could be used to fund the SEVERE monitoring that is necessary to ensure that they no longer use the type of blatantly illegal and monopolistic practices that has stymied computer development in MS hell for the past 15 years. MS has demonstrated time after time that they don't think they did anything wrong and therefore will continue to do the same thing that brought us to this point without a severe real penalty and strict monitoring of future business practices.

Don't let the inmates run the prison-
Thomas J. Cook